

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-Five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings†

California Medical Association. Session will convene in Los Angeles. Dates of the seventy-fourth annual session, to be held in 1945: Sunday, Monday, May 6-7.

American Medical Association. The 1945 Session will be held in Philadelphia, June 18-22, 1945. (*J.A.M.A.*, Nov. 25, 1944, p. 843.)

The Platform of the American Medical Association

The American Medical Association advocates:

1. *The establishment of an agency of Federal Government under which shall be coördinated and administered all medical and health functions of the Federal Government, exclusive of those of the Army and Navy.*

2. *The allotment of such funds as the Congress may make available to any state in actual need for the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the care of the sick on proof of such need.*

3. *The principle that the care of the public health and the provision of medical service to the sick is primarily a local responsibility.*

4. *The development of a mechanism for meeting the needs of expansion of preventive medical services with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

5. *The extension of medical care for the indigent and the medically indigent with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

6. *In the extension of medical services to all the people, the utmost utilization of qualified medical and hospital facilities already established.*

7. *The continued development of the private practice of medicine, subject to such changes as may be necessary to maintain the quality of medical services and to increase their availability.*

8. *Expansion of public health and medical services consistent with the American system of democracy.*

(Note: For interpretative comments, see *J.A.M.A.*, June 24, 1944, pp. 574-576.)

Medical Broadcasts*

The Los Angeles County Medical Association:

The following is the Los Angeles County Medical Association's radio broadcast schedule for the current month, all broadcasts being given on Saturdays:

KFAC presents the Saturday programs at 10:15 a. m., under the title, "Your Doctor and You."

In December, KFAC will present these broadcasts on the following Saturdays: December 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.

The Saturday broadcasts of KFI are given at 9:45 a. m., under the title, "The Road to Health."

"Doctors at War":

Radio broadcasts of "Doctors at War" by the American Medical Association is on the air each Saturday at 1:30 p.m., Pacific War Time.

† In the front advertising section of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, various rosters of national officers and organizations appear each week, each list being printed about every fourth week.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged.

Pharmacological Items of Potential Interest to Clinicians*:

1. *Interesting and Amusing:* Be sure to read G. W. Corner's *Ourselves Unborn: An Embryologist's Essay on Man* (Yale Press, New Haven, Conn., 1944, \$3), the best Terry Lecture in years, wise, witty and well-done. Enjoy A. E. Hertzler's *Ventures in Science of a Country Surgeon* (privately printed, Halstead, Kansas, 1944), clear, colorful and courageous, with Ray Allen's foreword stressing Hertzler's thesis that the good doctor is a student always. Get R. M. Wilson's *British Medicine* (Britain in Pictures series, Hastings House, N. Y., 1944, \$1.25) if for nothing else than its fine illustrations. Note National Music Council (338 W. 89th St., N. Y. 24) reports on use of music in hospitals for mental and nervous diseases.

2. *To Think About:* Excellent recommendations for the *National Medical Library* in survey of Army Medical Library by K. D. Metcalf & Co. (Am. Lib. Asso., Chicago, 1944). Q. Wright's homily on freedom in universities (*A.A.U.P. Bull.*, 30:167, 1944), neglects to mention significance of personal responsibility in justifying freedom. H. T. Houf discusses the ideal University president, noting importance of unselfishness (*ibid.*, p. 277). J. K. Wright reports on human nature in science (*Science*, 100:299, Oct. 6, 1944). Nursing Information Bureau of American Nurses' Asso. issues *Facts About Nursing*, 1944 (1790 Broadway, N. Y. 19). Better write for a copy!

3. *Books to Get:* Edwards Bros., Ann Arbor, Mich., will issue the S. C. Brooks' long awaited monograph on permeability, about which they had such trouble abroad and at home. Also from Edwards Bros.: H. Buscher on pathology and therapy of chemical warfare injuries (\$4); C. A. O. Franz on military surgery (\$13); K. Hinsberg's *Geschwulstproblem in Chemie und Physiologie* (\$8.25), and F. Kauffmann on the bacteriology of the salmonella organisms (\$7). For popular use it's hard to beat E. W. Hayes' *Tuberculosis As It Comes and Goes* (privately printed, Monrovia, Calif., 1943). G. Hosford recommends S. A. Fox's *Your Eyes* (Knopf, N. Y., 1944, \$3). Genial Manchester historian (medical), E. M. Brockbank offers neat biography of John Dalton and account of his theory of colour vision (Manchester Univ. Press, 1944, \$2). R. A. Moore writes a new *Pathology* (Saunders, Phila., 1944). A. R. Rich's *Pathogenesis of Tuberculosis* looks like a honey (C. C. Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1944, \$10.50). E. F. Burton offers *The Electron Microscope* (Reinhold, N. Y., 1944, \$3.85). Harvey Cushing's *Visit to Le Puy-en-Velay* appears with notes by John Fulton (Rowfant Club, Cleveland 15, \$8). Get R. J. Behan's *Pain: Its Origin, Conduction, Perception and Diagnos-Significance* (Appleton, N. Y., 1944). Important is W. R. Bloor's *Biochemistry of the Fatty Acids* (Reinhold, N. Y., 1944, \$6). R. A. Sawyer's *Experimental Spectroscopy* looks tops (Prentice-Hall, N. Y., 1944, \$3.75). W. W. Babcock offers *Principles and Practice of Surgery* (Lea & Febiger, Phila., 1944, \$12). R. S. Harris and K. V. Thimann survey *Vitamins and Hor-*

* These items submitted by Chauncey D. Leake, formerly Director of U. C. Pharmacologic Laboratory, now Dean of University of Texas Medical School.

mones (Academic Press, N. Y., 1944, \$6.80). G. Seifer's *Virus Diseases in Man, Animal and Plant* is O.K. (Philosophical Lib., N. Y., 1944, \$5). Interesting is W. F. Norwood's *Medical Education in the U. S. Before the Civil War* (Univ. Penn. Press, Phila., 1944, \$6). Outstanding is S. Bunnell's *Surgery of the Hand* (Lippincott, Phila., 1944, \$12). See F. D. Murphy's *Acute Medical Disorders* (Davis, Phila., 1944, \$6). J. Dollard & Co. (Yale) study *Frustration and Aggression* (Kegan Paul, Lond., 1944, \$3). L. R. Broster undertakes *A Study in the Surgery of Sex* (Heinemann, Lond., 1944, \$5).

4. *Antibiotics*: E. S. Duthie describes production of penicillinase by organisms of subtilis group (*Brit. J. Exp. Path.*, 25:96, 1944). G. Soo Hoo and R. J. Schnitzer note that penicillin synergizes with sulfonamides but not with acridines (*Arch. Biochem.*, 5:99, 1944). M. R. Lewis observes that while impure penicillin may damage sarcomatous cells, pure penicillin will not (*Science*, 100:314, Oct. 6, 1944). A. E. Francis and Co. find definitely that patulin has no value in common cold (*Lancet*, 2:370, Sept. 16, 1944). J. W. Bigger notes that penicillin is inactivated by blood and serum (*Lancet*, 2:400, Sept. 24, 1944). C. J. Cavallito and J. H. Bailey report that cysteine and esters, but not other SH compds. inactivate penicillin, citrinin, clavacin, pyocyanine, and new antibiotic from *allium sativum* (*Science*, 100, 390, Oct. 27, 1944). Note on same page G. Schwartzman's cellophane method for growing penicillin.

Stanford President Talks to A.A.M.C.—The major problem facing medical education today is a reconsideration of the entire teaching program to determine what to eliminate and what to add, Donald B. Tresidder, M.D., president of Stanford University, declared on October 24, at a meeting in Detroit of the American Association of Medical Colleges.

Stressing the fact that an accelerated teaching program now in operation is inevitable in wartime to meet a critical shortage of doctors, Dr. Tresidder suggested that the important issue to consider is "an analysis of the degree of competence we want developed in the medical profession, and the means of developing it."

A total of \$34,000 in War Bonds as prizes for the best art works by physicians, memorializing the medical profession's "Courage and Devotion Beyond the Call of Duty" (in war and in peace) has been announced.

This prize contest is open to any physician member of the American Physicians Art Association, including medical officers in the Armed Forces of the United States and Canada.

Full information available on request of the sponsor, Mead Johnson & Co., Evansville, Ind., U.S.A.

Doctors Term Carrying Baby 18 Years Rarity.—Southern California medical circles last month buzzed with discussion of the disclosure that Mrs. Martin Buck, 56, a visitor in Valyermo in the South Antelope Valley, had carried an unborn baby for 18 years.

"Rarer than quadruplets," "once in a million," "extremely unusual" ran the comments on how Dr. H. H. Snook had performed the operation in his Palmdale Hospital.

Learning of the primary abdominal pregnancy in which an operation similar to a Caesarean section was used to remove the mummified body of the baby, Dr. Burrell O. Raulston, dean of the University of Southern California School of Medicine, said, "It is one of the rarest complications that accompany pregnancy and childbirth."

Dr. Raulston said obstetricians on the S. C. faculty

reported such an instance occurs perhaps once in a million times.

Dr. Walter E. Macpherson, president of the College of Medical Evangelists, said this institution is especially curious about the strange case because Dr. Snook is one of its graduates.

Although Mrs. Buck first felt apparent labor pains after carrying the child for eight months in her home at Bonnerdale, Ark., she dismissed the symptoms as a tumor when no baby appeared. Not until last month, when she first called on Dr. Snook to treat a severe cold, were x-rays used to discover the amazing rarity.

Dr. Macpherson said his associates found, in a possibly incomplete search, only five authentic reported cases of similar character. Two such extra-uterine cases lasted for 46 years each, one 23 years and one 10 years.

"About one of every 4,800 of these ectopic embryos is normal at all and only one of every 480,000 lives to any length of time within the body of the mother," the medical college president said.

"For rarity, this may be compared with quadruplets, which occur only once in every 400,000 births."—Los Angeles Times, November 30.

Honors to Dr. J. C. Geiger, Director of Public Health, City and County of San Francisco.—On August 23, 1944, the Faculty of Medicine, the University Senate and the Board of Administrators of Tulane University of Louisiana, requested Dr. J. C. Geiger to make the Commencement address at its largest Commencement ever to be held, on October 14, 1944, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

At that time the honorary degree of Doctor of Science was conferred upon him, this being the second honorary degree to be so received from this University. The current citation is as follows: "A noted epidemiologist, a medical officer of health and author of excellence, and Tulane's most distinguished alumnus."

American College of Radiology.—Lt. Comdr. L. Henry Garland (MC), U.S.N.R., formerly of San Francisco, now stationed at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Astoria, Oregon, has been elected a member of the American Board of Radiology, according to a recent announcement by the Radiological Society of North America. Doctor Garland was elected to the examining board by the Radiological Society to serve as one of its representatives for a six-year term.

Military Order of the World Wars.—Cornelius O. Bailey, M.D., Major, U. S. Army, Medical Corps, World War I, has been notified of his reelection as Surgeon General of the Military Order of the World Wars, at their National Convention, held in September, at Atlanta, Georgia.

Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881).—The physical armor of Carlyle was invulnerable to serious illness, but the hardships of his youth left him a chronic dyspeptic. His sufferings undoubtedly were real enough, yet his imagination, aided by the result of self-medication with copious quantities of castor oil, magnified his troubles a hundred-fold. Extremely exacting, and often carping in his views of men and events, Carlyle has been held up as another example of genius and bad digestion going hand in hand.—Warner's *Calendar of Medical History*.

Cold Vaccines of Doubtful Value.—Vaccines popularly supposed to prevent or cure the common cold were condemned on November 30 as having no proved value.

The joint report by the A.M.A. Councils on Pharmacy and Chemistry, and Industrial Health, included vaccines administered hypodermically, by swallowing capsules

(oral vaccine), and by local spraying of the upper respiratory tract.

"Decisive evidence of the value of any vaccine is not forthcoming, and the weight of careful studies clearly indicates that none of the vaccines now available when administered by the routes advised have proved of value," the report said.

"Vaccines for colds can not be recommended for routine administration to industrial groups or to individuals."

Correction.—In the In Memoriam column of the November issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on page 266, the Executive Secretary's clerk who has charge of listings of deceased members of the California Medical Association, inserted the name of William E. Waddell. This was an error. Dr. William E. Waddell of Los Angeles is still active in professional work.

Medical Test for All Argentine Citizens.—A new government decree requiring periodic medical examination for all Argentines was announced by the Argentine Government on December 3.

Wisconsin Vitamin Patents Held Invalid by U. S. Court.—The valuable Steenbock patents for food irradiation, held by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, were for the second time held invalid on November 24 by the Ninth Federal Circuit Court of Appeals. Winner by the decision is Vitamin Technologists, Inc., a Los Angeles concern.

This time the court described the patent—which has been netting the Wisconsin Foundation nearly a million dollars a year for scientific research—as a "profit-controlled monopoly barrier."

Judge William Denman, who wrote this opinion, said: "The evidence and appellee's brief are replete with well-verified statements of the great boon to humanity of Dr. Steenbock's scientific discoveries for the prevention and cure of rickets. The truth of such statements make stronger the contention that it is a public offense to withhold such processes from any of the principal foods of the rachitic poor."

The court did not invalidate the patent on the ground of public interest, however, but mainly on the premise that the principle of improving certain food substances by exposing them to ultraviolet rays, from sun or lamp, was not a new one.

New Hospital at Lynwood in Los Angeles County.—Construction of the new \$600,000 St. Francis Hospital at Imperial and Century Boulevards started on November 21, according to Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. O'Dwyer, director of the Catholic Charities, sponsors of the project.

No definite completion date has been set, but it is hoped by Msgr. O'Dwyer that formal dedication services can be held on or before July 1.

The initial structure will provide for 100 beds, but construction of a maternity wing and facilities for additional general wards are already contemplated.

It is pointed out by Msgr. O'Dwyer that at least 500 more hospital beds are needed in this area to bring it up to the national average. Acuteness of the local hospital situation, he said, prompted Congress to appropriate \$400,000 of Lanham Act funds for the structure. An additional \$200,000 for fixtures, equipment and furnishings is being raised here and in surrounding communities by public subscription.

The new hospital will be equipped with the latest clinical laboratory and surgical innovations and its facilities will be available to all, regardless of race or creed.

California 1950 Population May Be Second Largest.

—California is looking forward to the privileges—and headaches—connected with becoming the State with the second largest population in the country.

Governor Warren has put it this way:

"California has passed Ohio and Illinois to rank third among States in population. With the postwar industrial and construction program now being formulated, we should overcome Pennsylvania's lead of about 1,000,000 by 1950."

Colonel Alexander Heron, state director of reconstruction and reemployment, also looking six years ahead, says:

"California will retain all but one-fourth or one-fifth of its wartime migrants and will have a population of 8,500,000 to 9,000,000 by 1950."

A general study of the population status, supervised by Colonel Heron, says:

"Between April, 1940, and January, 1944, the war transformed our State. In that three and a half year period, California acquired factories and plants turning out untold quantities of war materials, was crossed and recrossed by countless transient military and civilian personnel on urgent war business, served as a jumping off place for men and materials for one of the great war efforts, and harbored military installations of unprecedented magnitude.

"In the process, the State acquired an extra million and a half people who had not lived here before, a jump from slightly under 7,000,000 to almost 8,500,000. Of these, 1,320,000 were migrants from other States who came to work in the war industries or for other reasons moved to California. The rest were babies born here.

"The two increases, 'natural' increase and increase by migration, broke a number of records. They constituted the greatest numerical increase of any State for the same period. California by-passed Ohio and Illinois to become the third most populous state in the union, exceeded only by New York and Pennsylvania. And in the single year 1943 the rate of population growth—600,000 per year—was the most phenomenal ever recorded by any one of the United States."

Doctors Assert Vitamin Tests Prove Negative.

Physicians who conducted a 30-day vitamin-feeding experiment with 200 persons, at the Army's request, on November 23 reported the "administration of vitamin supplements to a group of apparently normal persons, consuming the usual American diet, had no demonstrable beneficial effect."

The study was made at Duke University School of Medicine at the request of the quartermaster general's office.

The authors, Dr. Julian M. Ruffin and Dr. David Cayer of Durham, N. C., said:

"At present the use of vitamins is widespread throughout the country, not only in the treatment of disease, but also by apparently normal persons.

"While no one would question the employment of vitamin therapy in frank deficiency disease, or even in suspected deficiency states, still one wonders if the indiscriminate use of vitamins, sold over the counter to people who have no obvious disease, is justified.

"It has been implied that, even when no demonstrable deficiency exists, one's sense of well being and ability to perform work can be improved greatly by the addition of vitamins to the diet.

"As pointed out by the Council on Food and Nutrition and on Industrial Health (of the American Medical Association) there is at present no conclusive evidence to substantiate this point of view."

Cadet Nurse Residence Dedication Rites Held.—The new U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps residence at the California Hospital School of Nursing, in Los Angeles, was dedicated on October 29, with F. C. Noel, president of the board of directors, accepting Moore Hall as the new home of trainee nurses.

The residence is named in honor of the late Dr. E. C. Moore, who was connected with the California Hospital many years before his death last July.

The building was acquired under the Federal Works Agency and was presented to Noel by Wright L. Felt, regional engineer of the Federal Works Agency.

Bicknell Building of California Hospital in Los Angeles to Be Opened Soon.—Remodeling of the Bicknell Building, which will provide an additional 110 beds for patients, as an annex to the main building of the California Hospital, is rapidly nearing completion. This project is a Federal Works Agency Grant-in-aid program in line with the government's campaign to utilize existing facilities in an effort to increase the number of hospital beds in Los Angeles area, where an acute shortage exists.

An additional 120 employees will be needed to adequately staff departments which will be affected by the increased patient load. The War Manpower Commission has provided the hospital with a special manpower priority and a recruitment program is now in progress. An additional 24 graduate nurses and 24 nurse attendants will be required to provide bedside care for the patients when the new unit is filled to capacity. Special emphasis is being placed upon this phase of the recruitment program, due to the present shortage of nurses in this area.

The building has been equipped with new furniture and modern facilities. The unit will consist largely of ward accommodations.

The new addition will give the California Hospital a total capacity of 411 adult beds and 48 bassinets.

Robert A. Peers in Practice for 45 Years.—Recently Doctor Robert A. Peers, Medical Director of the Colfax School for the Tuberculous, completed his 45th year of practice in Colfax in Auburn County. His many friends took occasion to send him congratulations. Doctor Peers was president of the California Medical Association in 1935.

Governor Warren Urges State Control of All Hospitals.—Gov. Warren on November 27 requested Dr. Wilton L. Halverson, director of public health, to draft legislation which, if enacted, would place all hospitals in the State under control of a State agency.

Dr. Halverson reported that "it is easy to start up a hospital now because there are no State licensing laws," and said that as a result "some institutions are not giving good service."

"Probably some deaths have occurred which could have been prevented by proper care," Dr. Halverson said.

Dr. Halverson and Charles M. Wollenberg, director of social welfare, told the Governor's council meeting that they had agreed jurisdiction over county hospitals, now under the Welfare Department, should be transferred to the Health Department.

Director Wollenberg said surveys made by members of his staff showed "most county hospitals are not good."

Diploma Mills of California.—For many years, in California, all that was necessary to secure incorporation papers for institutions of learning having authority to grant degrees, was to make application to the Secretary

of State, in much the same manner in which a business group incorporates.

It was during those years that a considerable number of fly-by-night educational institutions came into existence. Subsequently a law was enacted requiring evidence of material and other resources before incorporation of an institution of learning, having power to grant degrees, could be granted. In connection with the above, the *J.A.M.A.* for November 4, 1944, on page 648, prints an item, "Another Diploma Mill," in which are mentioned the following institutions: "White Cross Medical College of the University of Physicians and Surgeons of Southern California"; "Extension Branch of the Los Angeles University, College of Psychiatry"; and "Golden State University of Los Angeles."

The item relates that the New York County Grand Jury on October 10th took steps to bring to task a promoter who was using the names of the above institutions.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

Sacramento Doctors to Quit License Fight

Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement probably will not carry out its threat to take legal action to prevent the City from levying a license fee on doctors, Dr. Wayne Pollock, president of the society, said on October 30.

He said, however, that attorneys for the organization are still studying the matter.

The new business license ordinance, which went into effect after a petition for a referendum vote failed last week, levies an annual fee of \$24 on doctors.

Before it was adopted by the City Council, the Society for Medical Improvement fought the measure on grounds that it was indirectly "a tax on sick people."—*Sacramento Union*, October 31.

New Concession Given British Soldiers Wanting to be Fathers

Cairo, Africa. (U.P.)—The British army committee on compassionate posting—better known as the baby leave committee—made another concession to the thousands of Tommies in the Middle East who are anxious to return home and become fathers after years of service in the desert.

The committee is composed of five officers and five enlisted men, with a lieutenant colonel as chairman. All are anonymous. The chairman recently announced that high priority will be extended to soldiers who could have fathered babies if they had wanted to before the war, but didn't. Previous preference had been given soldiers now medically able to procreate, but who hadn't been before being shipped to the Middle East.

Government authorities here deplored the publicity given the baby leave committee among troops in this theater, resulting in the committee being inundated with applications. There isn't enough shipping space to accommodate the flood of applicants, and they will have to take their turn. . . .—Samuel Souki in Los Angeles *Times*.

U. of Texas President Is Discharged

Houston, Texas, Nov. 1 (U.P.)—Dr. Homer P. Rainey, president of the University of Texas, has been discharged and three members of the Board of Regents have resigned, it was announced tonight after the regents ended a closed session at the Rice Hotel here.

Announcement of the discharge of President Rainey was made by Leo P. Haynes, secretary of the board. (Note. For other items, see in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, for November, on page 269.)—*San Francisco Chronicle*, November 2.

San Francisco Health Director Honored Dr. Geiger Addresses Tulane Graduates

San Francisco and its Department of Public Health won acclaim yesterday when Dr. J. C. Geiger, City Health Director, presented the commencement address at Tulane University of Louisiana at New Orleans.

Not only was Dr. Geiger honored as the main speaker